

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Anderson et al. Art Unit 3761  
Serial No. 10/623,030  
Filed July 18, 2003  
Confirmation No. 4469  
For ABSORBENT ARTICLE WITH HIGH QUALITY INK JET IMAGE PRODUCED  
AT LINE SPEED  
Examiner Michele M. Kidwell

October 8, 2010

**REPLY BRIEF**

This is a reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed August 11, 2010. More specifically, the following remarks are in reply to the Examiner's Response to Argument set forth on pages 8-10 of the Examiner's Answer.

The Examiner asserts on page 8 of the Examiner's Answer that the claimed coverage area ratio is not clearly defined and that the ratio can be determined by comparing an amount of ink to an amount of another ink, an underlying layer, or the article as a whole. Appellants respectfully disagree. Each respective coverage area ratio of claim 1 is defined by the percentage of any area in an image that is covered by the corresponding cyan, yellow, magenta or black colored ink. In other words, the claimed coverage area ratio is the percentage of an area within an image that has ink applied thereto as compared to the total area of the image. For example, FIG. 7B of the present specification is a magnified photograph of a portion of an image showing the disbursement of ink on a substrate. The ink was applied to the substrate while the substrate was moving at approximately 1,200 feet per minute. As seen therein, the ink defining the image does not cover the

entire substrate. Instead, there are portions of the substrate within the image that are not covered by ink.

The claimed coverage area ratio is the percentage of the area within the image that is covered by ink in comparison to the total area of the image (not another area of ink, an underlying layer or the article as a whole). The coverage area ratio recited in the claims can be defined mathematically as:

$$\frac{\text{the area of an image covered by ink}}{\text{the total area within the image}} \times 100$$

Moreover, paragraph [0054], page 25 through paragraph [0057] explain in detail one suitable method for calculating the coverage area ratio of an image. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand what the claim term "coverage area ratio" means and how it is determined. Accordingly, the claimed coverage ratio is clearly defined in appellants' application.

As set forth in appellants' Appeal Brief, none of the references cited by the Examiner, whether considered alone or in combination, teach or suggest the coverage area ratios recited in claim 1.

In addition to the reasons set forth in the appellants' Appeal Brief, the rejections of the claims on appeal are submitted to be in error for the reasons set forth above.

Appellants do not believe that any fee is due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of any fees to Deposit Account No. 12-384.

Respectfully submitted,

/Richard L. Bridge/

Richard L. Bridge, Reg. No. 40,529  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
7700 Forsyth Blvd, Suite 1800  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
(314) 621-5070

RLB/PEB/tmg  
Via EFS